

Docket Item #14  
CITY CHARTER, SEC 9.06; CASE #2003-0003  
FREEDMEN'S CEMETERY MEMORIAL PARK

Planning Commission Meeting  
November 6, 2003

**ISSUE:** Consideration of a proposal by the City of Alexandria to acquire property for use as a park commemorating the Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery, pursuant to the provisions of Section 9.06 of the City Charter.

**APPLICANT:** City of Alexandria

**LOCATION:** 1001 South Washington Street and 714 Church Street

**ZONE:** CL/Commercial Low

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**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION, NOVEMBER 6, 2003:** On a motion by Mr. Komoroske, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Planning Commission voted to approve the purchase of property under section 9.06 of the City Charter. The motion carried on a vote of 6 to 0, with Mr. Wagner absent.

**Reason:** The Commission agreed with the staff analysis, and spoke of the inherent conflict between supporting a memorial and a park on the one hand, and the need to close the Mobil station business on the other. Commissioners asked staff to allow the service station to remain open for the maximum amount of time possible, consistent with archeology requirements, and also asked staff to assist the operator in finding a new location within the City.

**Speakers:**

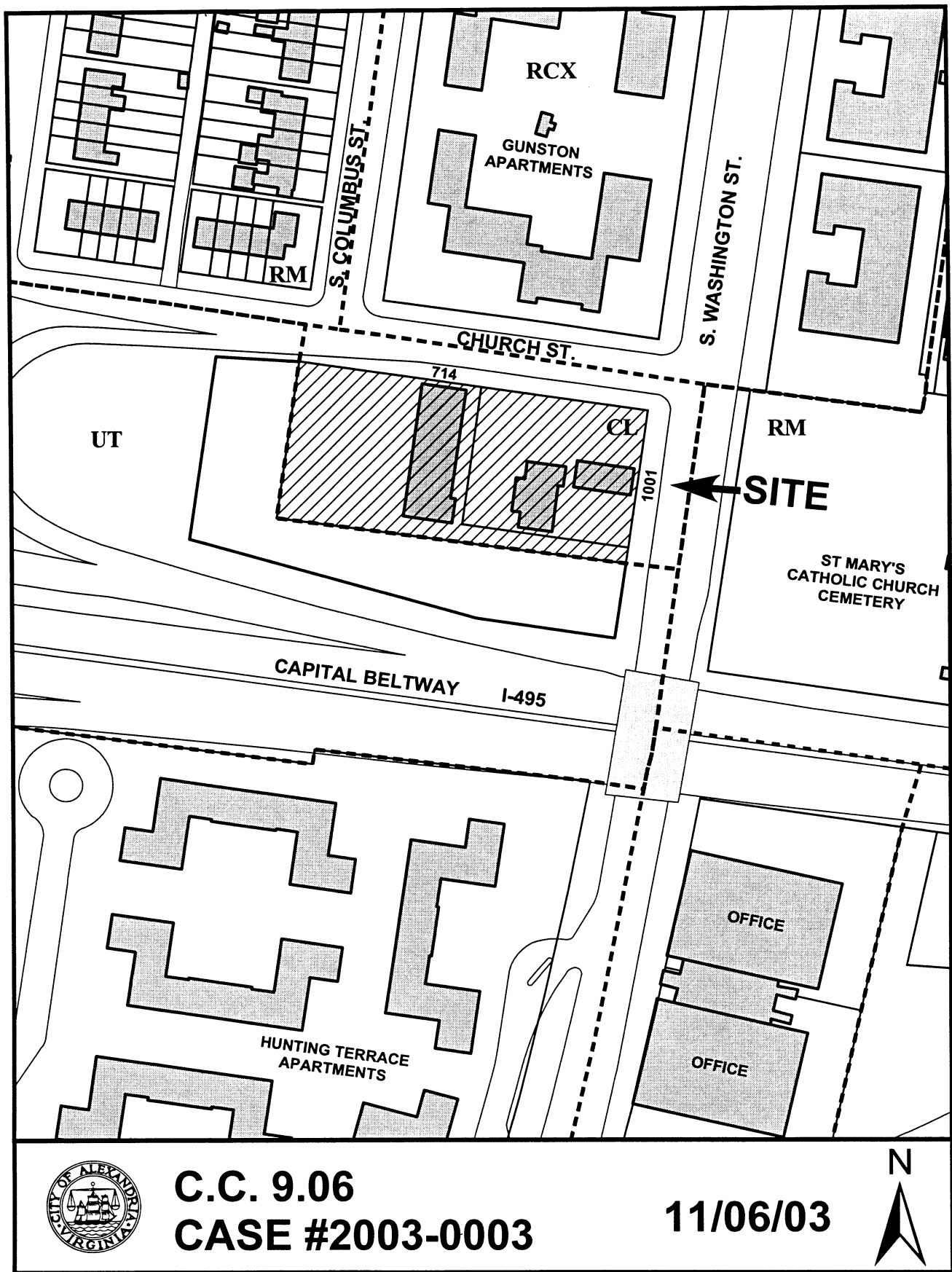
Harry Hart, representing Osghar Butt, spoke in support of both the Freedmen's Cemetery memorial and the existing service station operator.

Lillie Finklea, President of Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery, spoke in favor of the Freedmen's Cemetery acquisition.

Tim Dennee, representing Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery Board of Trustees, spoke in favor of the acquisition.

The following people spoke in favor of allowing the Mobil station operator to remain, or to remain as long as possible:

Osgar Butt  
Charlotte Vedeler  
Mark Davis  
Mark Mueller  
Daniel Nelson  
Ruth Bennett  
Don Muntz





11/06/03

CITY CHARTER SECTION 9.06 CASE #2003-0003



STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends **approval** under Section 9.06 of the City Charter.

## DISCUSSION

The City proposes to purchase the property at 1001 South Washington Street and at 714 Church Street for use as a park commemorating the Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery. Funds for the purchase will come from the mitigation package established by the Woodrow Wilson Bridge settlement, and a group of staff agencies has already begun working with interested citizens and groups on a process by which the ultimate memorial park is designed and constructed. This collaborative effort will mark an important phase of the City's history, will create a new park for the public on South Washington Street and will provide a tangible benefit for the City from the construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

### Section 9.06 of the City Charter

Section 9.06 of the City Charter requires that the Planning Commission review and approve any acquisition or sale of public land and any change in streets, squares, parks, public buildings or spaces in order to ensure that any such acquisition, sale or change is consistent with the City's Master Plan.

### Description of Property and Proposed Use

The subject property is an entire block of land in the southern part of Old Town bounded by Church Street, South Washington Street, the Capital Beltway and the Beltway exit ramp to Church Street. It is comprised of two tax parcels: the land known as 1001 South Washington Street includes 18,750 square feet and contains a one-story Mobil automotive service station, related structures and extensive asphalt paving; the adjacent lot at 714 Church Street includes 25,412 square feet, and contains a three-story brick office building and surface parking for approximately 20 vehicles, with an alley extending along the south boundary of the service station property to South Washington Street.

To the north across Church Street is the Gunston Hall Apartments complex. To the east across South Washington Street is the Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery. On the south and west, the property is bounded by the Capital Beltway right of way. The general area has a mix of light commercial uses and apartments along South Washington Street, with townhouses predominating a block away from Washington Street.

### Zoning and Master Plan History

Both the master plan and the zoning designate this property as Commercial Low, recognizing the existing low density commercial uses and providing a buffer between the residential uses to the north and the Capital Beltway. Prior to 1992, the property was zoned C-2 and C-2-B, again consistent with the long time commercial uses of the site. As part of the Southwest Quadrant Small Area Plan chapter of the City's master plan, the land use discussion of the area in the 1992 plan focuses on the need to maintain a low scale of development at this site, in order to support the low density residential areas nearby and to recognize the importance of Washington Street and the low rise buildings in the vicinity.

The Historic Preservation chapter of the Master Plan refers to the potential for a 19<sup>th</sup> century African American cemetery under the Washington Street service station, but notes that it is not visible. It also lists the “Church Street African American Cemetery” in the 700-800 blocks of South Church Street as a documented historic resource within the South West Quadrant small area plan.

The proposed acquisition and creation of a memorial park at Freedmen’s Cemetery does not technically require an amendment to the master plan and zoning of the property, but it may be desirable to make a change in the future in order to recognize the site’s unique position as a land use in the city.

### History and Significance of the Property

The proposed Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial Park will be a passive recreation facility featuring a memorial to the freed African Americans who were buried there during and shortly after the Civil War. With the advent of the Civil War in 1861, Alexandria was occupied by federal troops. The town was transformed into a place of liberation for thousands of African Americans. People enslaved on plantations in Confederate Virginia south and west of Alexandria streamed into town to escape bondage. Until the Union soldiers occupied Alexandria, the town had been home to some of the largest slave dealing companies in the South; about half of its black residents lived in slavery. Yet, virtually over night, with the federal occupation, Alexandria became a mecca for people fleeing slavery. Over the next four years, about 7,000 to 8,000 African Americans made their way through Confederate-held land to cross into occupied Alexandria. These freedom seekers were first referred to as “Contraband,” and later as “Freedmen.”

While the Freedmen who entered Alexandria did succeed in leaving captivity behind, they faced great hardships. Arriving on foot and in old wagons pulled by mules, they carried only meager clothing and supplies. As the thousands of refugees came to Alexandria, they encountered insufficient housing, food and jobs in a town with a pre-war population of about 12,000. Over time, many found jobs with the military, working as construction workers, hospital stewards, painters, teamsters, laundresses, cooks, grave diggers and personal servants. The military authority erected some barrack-style housing, but the refugees usually had to create their own makeshift shelters. Shanties sprung up on vacant land, and the new shanty towns became neighborhoods, such as “Cross Canal,” “Petersburg,” “Somnerville,” and “Grantville.”

Living in destitute conditions, thousands of Freedmen died during and after the Civil War. It appears that, in the early war years, Freedmen were buried in the town’s pauper cemetery at Penny Hill. Although there is no estimate of the number who died, by February 1864, the high death rate prompted the military to seize private land near South Washington and Church streets and lay out a cemetery for Freedmen. The Superintendent of Contraband, Rev. Albert Gladwin, and others recorded the names and ages of those who died in a ledger book from May 1864 until January 1869. It is these individuals who were buried in the one and a half acres now referred to as Alexandria Freedmen’s Cemetery. More than half of those who died were children, including many newborns.

After 1869, the abandoned cemetery was reclaimed by Francis Smith, the former owner. In 1917, the Smith family conveyed the property to the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Washington Street did not exist as far south as the cemetery site until the construction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in 1932. In 1946, the property was sold and subsequently zoned for commercial uses. In 1955, the Mobil service station was constructed on the parcel now identified as 1001 South Washington Street. In 1959, construction of the Capital Beltway began on the right of way abutting the office building parcel and included about one-half acre of the original parcel on which the cemetery was created. In 1960, the three-story office building at 714 Church Street was built. From 1869 to 1955, when the first construction occurred, the cemetery remained undisturbed and essentially forgotten.

Since the 1980's, there has been renewed awareness of the plight of the freed slaves and the significance of Alexandria's historic role in events surrounding the end of slavery. First, historical research by T. Michael Miller, research historian in the Office of Historic Alexandria, and Wesley Pippinger, respectively, discovered that the cemetery was located on South Washington Street and that the burial ledger survived in Richmond. Then, in 1992, Freedmen's Cemetery was included in a state register of abandoned cemeteries and in the Historic Preservation chapter of Alexandria Master Plan. In 1997, the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery was organized by Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud to preserve, research and commemorate the burial ground. Over the last six years, the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery has worked with the City Council to heighten community awareness of the cemetery and the Freedmen who sought freedom in Alexandria. An annual Week of Remembrance was established by City Council, and a wreath laying ceremony is held each year. In 2000, the Friends secured a Virginia Highway Marker to mark the site.

#### Proposed Acquisition of the Property to Create a Memorial Park

Preliminary archaeological investigations for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project have confirmed the presence of graves on the VDOT right of way and in the City's South Washington Street right of way and have produced compelling evidence of grave shafts under the pavement on the 1001 South Washington Street parcel. In 2002, the City negotiated an amendment to the Settlement Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, approved by the City Council, that provides funds for acquisition of this property, demolition of the existing buildings and the creation of a memorial park. The improvement program includes a non-destructive archaeological survey after removal of buildings and pavement. This survey will identify the areas with undisturbed graves and provide information necessary for a suitable design and the protection of resources during construction.

The funds for the Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park are part of a package of payments to the City in settlement of the City's claim against the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration challenging the selection process for the alignment and location of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, on the grounds that the impacts on the social fabric and the cultural resources of Alexandria were inadequately weighed. Of the total \$35.4 million coming to the city for mitigation measures, \$5.5 million is budgeted for Freedmen's Cemetery enhancements, to be made available to the City for its use in acquiring the property, demolishing the existing buildings,



conducting archaeological investigations, and designing and constructing the proposed park. The funds come to the City from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and the Virginia Department of Transportation acts as the agent of the Federal Highway Administration for the management of funds disbursed to the city.

The original Freedmen's Cemetery parcel is reported to have been one and one half acres in extent. The two privately held parcels have a total area of 1.014 acres. The balance includes limited losses to right of way for Church Street and South Washington Street, and the right of way acquired for the original Beltway construction in 1958. During the original Beltway construction, excavation encroached on the cemetery and has been shown to have disturbed several graves. No one knows the exact location of the southern boundary of the cemetery or how many graves were in the area south of the limits of the 1950's construction. The proposed park will extend to the retaining wall that will define the limit of the Beltway when current construction is completed. The City will assume responsibility for maintaining the entire park. VDOT has not yet determined the disposition of right of way within the original cemetery that is not required for the current Beltway and for maintenance of the retaining wall, but it is understood that the remainder right of way will be either ceded to or placed under a perpetual easement to the City.

The City plans to acquire fee simple title to the two privately held parcels on the Freedmen's Cemetery site. Following acquisition, the properties will be leased back to the present tenants until it is necessary to start demolition. The schedule for demolition and subsequent milestones, including archaeological investigations, conceptual design, engineering design, and construction, is dependent on access to the site for construction after completion of the retaining wall adjacent to the Beltway. The City's intent is to complete the park construction at the earliest feasible date that is consistent with the constraint against interfering with the Beltway and Urban Deck construction. The relevant construction contract, known as the Route 1 Interchange Tie-In Contract, is scheduled for completion in November 2007. Work that would be impacted by Freedmen's Cemetery construction should be completed by early Fall of 2007. The park construction will include enhancement of the surviving area of the original Freedmen's Cemetery excepting the right of way required for the current Beltway construction and the rights of way of Church and South Washington Street.

#### Plan for Creating the New Freedmen's Memorial Park

Although at a very early point in the process, the city hopes to ultimately create a passive, memorial park that preserves the known grave sites and the cemetery, that commemorates the freed people of Alexandria, and that creates a place for historic understanding and personal reflection. The work to create a design for the park will proceed as the bridge work, discussed above, allows. Archeological work is tentatively scheduled to begin in earnest in 2005, with the process of selecting a design consultant to start when the archeological work is underway. Under this time schedule, construction of the park could be completed in 2008.

The process by which consultants are selected and preliminary design work is completed will include representatives of citizen, historic, parks and other relevant groups, and will be steered by an interagency staff group, already organized to create a process by which each step of the work proceeds. The park will require land use approvals and will be scrutinized by appropriate city boards and commissions, as well as the public as a whole, before final designs are approved.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve the 9.06 case to purchase the Freedmen's Cemetery property as consistent with the Master Plan.

STAFF: Eileen Fogarty, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning;  
Jean Federico, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria;  
Pamela Cressey, City Archeologist, Office of Historic Alexandria;  
Reed Winslow, Transportation and Environmental Services.

# LEE-FENDALL HOUSE MUSEUM

614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone (703) 548-1789 • Fax (703) 548-0931

www.LeeFendallHouse.org

Mary Frances Varner, President  
Edward F. Horn, Vice President  
Amanda Lee Spitler, Secretary

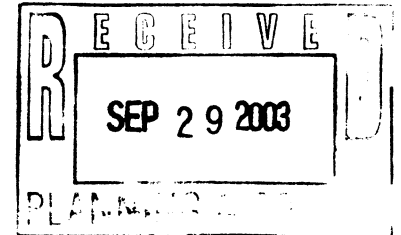
Douglas B. Stuart, Treasurer  
Kristin L. Miller, Executive Director

Date: September 23, 2003

To: Members of the Planning Commission

From: Kristin Miller, Director, Lee-Fendall House Museum and  
Chair, Historic Alexandria Collaboration Committee

Subject: City Acquisition of Freedmen's Cemetery Site



First, allow me to introduce myself. I am chair of the Historic Alexandria Collaboration Committee, a group of staff, board members, and volunteers who are responsible for the collections, preservation, and interpretation at museums and historic sites in Alexandria. These include all properties funded by the City, by other jurisdictions or public authorities, non-profit organizations and two historic churches.

I understand that in November, the Planning Commission will receive a staff presentation outlining the acquisition by the City of land on South Washington Street, the Freedmen's Cemetery Site. Funds for the purchase of this land will be coming from the settlement and agreements relating to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project.

I am writing on behalf of the Historic Alexandria Collaboration Committee to endorse the City of Alexandria's plan for this land. At our Collaboration meeting on September 17, 2003, members voted unanimously their support for the proposed purchase of the land, the eventual razing of buildings currently occupying the land, and archaeological testing of the site. Plans will be developed for the design and installation of a memorial to those 1800 African Americans buried on this site as well as the thousands who came to Alexandria during the Civil War in search of freedom. The Collaboration Committee is extremely interested in this project which will culminate in an attractive and suitable memorial, Freedmen's Cemetery Park, with an expected completion date about the end of 2008.

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
Philip Sunderland, City Manager  
Barbara Ross, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning  
Emily Baker, City Engineer, TES



Alexandria, Virginia

# Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

Box 178, City Hall  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313  
(703) 838-4554

CITY CHARTER  
Section 4.06  
Case # 2003-0003



Date: September 22, 2003  
To: Members of the Planning Commission  
Subject: City Acquisition of Freedmen's Cemetery Site<sup>S</sup>  
From: Kleber S. Masterson, Jr. *Kleber S. Masterson*  
Chair, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

I understand that in November the Planning Commission will be receiving a staff presentation outlining the acquisition by the City of land on South Washington Street, the Freedmen's Cemetery Site. Funds for the purchase of this land will be coming from the settlement and agreements relating to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project.

I am writing on behalf of the Commission to endorse the City's plan for this land. At our Commission meeting on September 16, 2003, members voted unanimously their support for the proposed purchase of the land, the eventual razing of buildings currently occupying the land, and archaeological testing of the site. Plans will be developed for the design and installation of a memorial to those 1800 African Americans buried on this site as well as the thousands who came to Alexandria during the Civil War in search of freedom. The Commission is extremely interested in this project which will culminate in an attractive and suitable memorial, Freedmen's Cemetery Park, with an expected completion date about the end of 2008.

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
Phil Sunderland, City Manager  
Barbara Ross, Deputy Director, Planning & Zoning  
Emily Baker, City Engineer, T&ES



PC Docket Item # 14  
City Charter Section 9.06  
Case # 2003-0003

ALEXANDRIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

30 October 2003

Members of the Planning Commission  
City of Alexandria  
City Hall  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

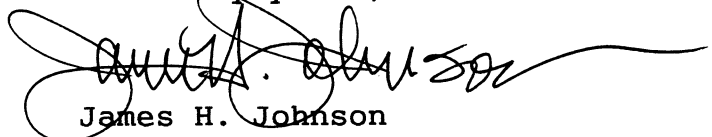
Dear Sir:

This letter is sent supporting the City acquisition of the historic Freedmen's Cemetery at 1001 South Washington Street.

The enclosed copy of my letter to Mayor Euille details our concern and wishes regarding this important issue.

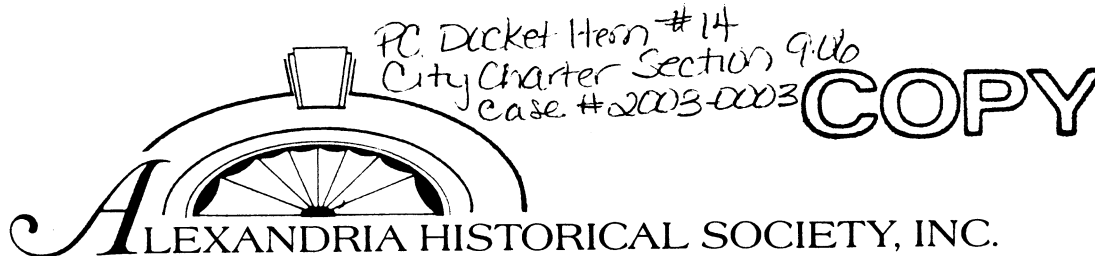
Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,



James H. Johnson  
President

Enclosure



201 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

30 October 2003

His Honor, Mayor William D. Euille  
City of Alexandria  
City Hall, Box F  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Dear Mayor Euille:

This letter is sent supporting the City acquisition of the historic Freedmen's Cemetery at 1001 South Washington Street.

The merits of protecting this hallowed ground is without controversy. In truth our ancestors should have taken care of this disturbing omission long ago.

As you remember, having attended, the Alexandria Historical Society honoring Ms. Lillie Finklea with our 2003 history award, our membership supports the founders and Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery.

Having personally reviewed the documents relating to this question it seems preposterous that this issue was not resolved years ago by protecting this known burial ground. The City of Alexandria has a recent good record of caring for our African American community. Preserving the resting place of long dead Americans is a duty and responsibility for those with the power to make this happen.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We wish you the very best for your service as mayor of Alexandria. If we can be of any service to you and your office please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,



James H. Johnson  
President

cc: Members of City Council  
Director of Planning and Zoning ✓  
Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning  
City Manager  
City Engineer, Transportation and  
Environmental Services

Docket Item #14  
City Charter, Sec 9.06; CASE #2003-0003  
Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park

Planning Commission Meeting  
November 6, 2003

Motion:

We recommend that the existing operation at Old Town Mobil be given the maximum possible amount of time to continue at this location even after the purchase by the City of the land for the permanent memorial.



<bmclellan@coalgovpro.org>

11/03/2003 09:50 AM  
Please respond to  
bmclellan

To: <eileen.fogarty@ci.alexandria.va.us>

cc:

Subject: City of Alexandria Website Contact Us - EMail for Eileen Fogarty  
(eileen.fogarty@ci.alexandria.va.us)

**Time: [Mon Nov 03, 2003 09:50:10] IP Address: [66.106.28.250]**

**Response requested: []**

**First Name:** Bruce

**Last Name:** McLellan

**Street Address:** 9410 Ferry Landing Court

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22309

**Phone:** 703-780-2858

**Email Address:** bmclellan@coalgovpro.org

**Comments:** I want to express my distress about the Planning Commission's intention to purchase the property at 1001 South Washington Street and 714 Church Street for the purpose of creating a park commemorating the Alexandria Freedman's Cemetery.

I can't help but think this contemplated move by the City is not only frivolous but wasteful and unnecessary.

It is my understanding that Mobil Oil Company has already offered to erect a memorial on the site at the company's expense.

Why would the City of Alexandria spend \$5.5 million to do what it is being given for free? Why not give that \$5.5 million to the people who are in need of that kind of assistance today? Or provide tax relief to future taxpayers?

I don't really see the sense of priority in this purchase.

Furthermore, why would the City want to remove the source of income from a small businessman?— and the taxes that generates for the City? -and the ongoing taxes generated by his



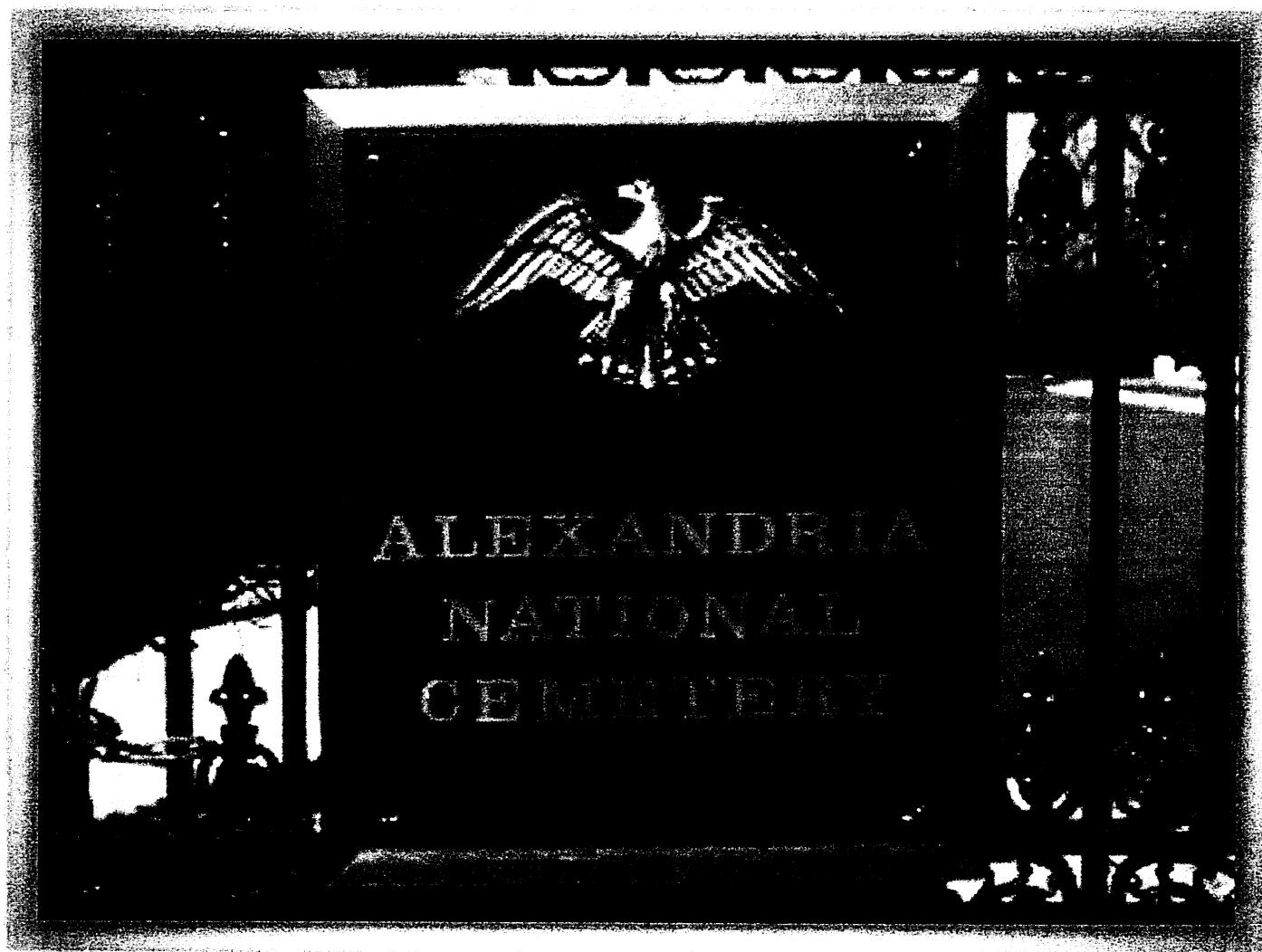
ongoing sales and services? I think it is important to point out that the current owner is not only a small businessman but a person who immigrated to this country and successfully entered the mainstream of American life.

The City will not only be confiscating his dream by removing his livelihood, but it will be eliminating the jobs he has generated for his employees - and the taxes they, in turn, pay.

Bruce McLellan  
9410 Ferry Landing Court  
Alexandria, VA 22309

# 27

11-15-03



# Alexandria National Cemetery

**History:** The original deed of land was recorded June 1, 1862 comprising 5.5 acres. Dedicated by President Abraham Lincoln that year, Alexandria is the first National Cemetery established by Congress and the oldest in the National Cemetery Administration.

The City of Alexandria served as a focal point of Civil War activities due to its proximity to the Nation's Capitol and the several hospitals that attended to those wounded in battle. It was for that reason that a former farm in Alexandria was designated as a National Cemetery in 1862. Many initial burials were from soldiers killed during battles at Bull Run and Manassas.

Over 4,000 gravesites are marked at Alexandria National Cemetery. 120 graves are Civil War unknown soldiers. As many as 250 African-American soldiers are believed to be buried at Alexandria.

As of the present, 20 reserved gravesites are available and 60 sites available for cremation at Alexandria.

**Notable Burials:** Four Quartermaster Corps employees (Peter Carroll, Samuel Gosnell, George Huntington, Christopher Farley) who died in pursuit of John Wilkes Booth are buried in Section A, Gravesites 3174-3177. A granite monument with bronze tablet was erected in their memory in 1922. They are among the only civilians buried in a National Cemetery authorized by then President Andrew Johnson.

39 Confederate soldiers were originally buried here; their remains were disinterred in 1879 by the Daughters of the Confederacy and moved to Christ church Cemetery in Alexandria.

The first burial in 1862 was of Corporal Allen Greely of the 10<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry.

The last burial in an uncommitted gravesite was Army Sergeant Saul Lewis on May 10, 1967.

**Historic Features:** An original superintendent's lodge was built in 1862, and destroyed by fire in 1878. In 1887, the present French Second Empire style building was erected. Dept of Defense and Veterans Affairs employees occupied the Lodge until 1985. It is now leased to VFW Post 609.

A sandstone retaining wall was erected to enclose the cemetery at the same time the second lodge was built.

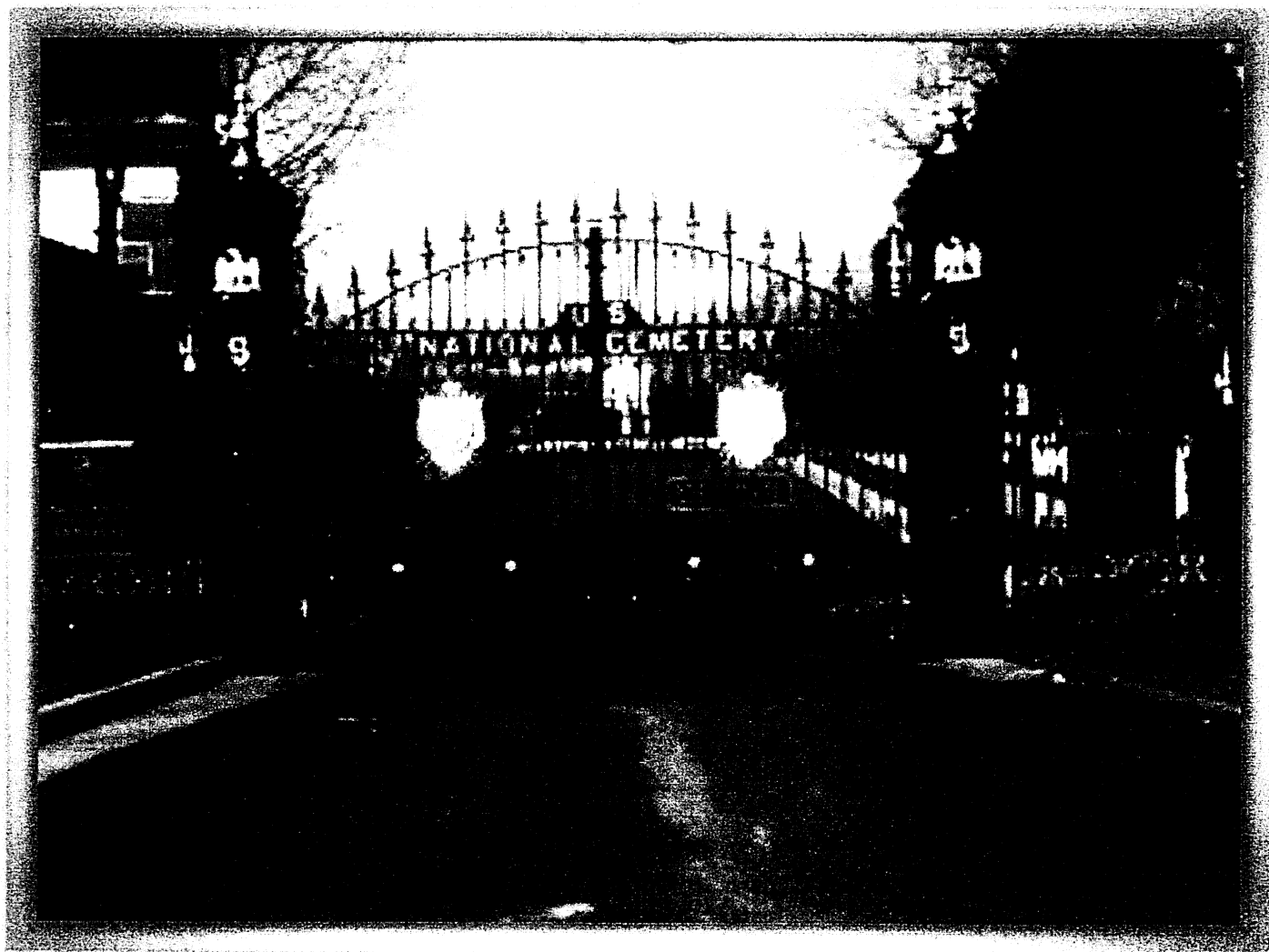
**Present Day Activities and Historic Restoration:** Veterans Affairs and contract employees presently care for the grounds

of Alexandria National Cemetery. Current interments average 2-3 per year.

In 1981, the Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

VA recently finished a significant restoration project repairing the sandstone retaining wall and wrought iron gate to its original appearance.

VA is working with VFW Post 609 and a non-profit corporation to restore the lodge. Congressman Jim Moran has introduced legislation to provide matching funds up to \$100,000 raised privately to assist in this restoration project.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery  
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Section number 7 Page 1

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Alexandria National Cemetery is located at 1450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria, Virginia, six blocks west of U.S. Highway 1 in the City of Alexandria. The main entrance on Wilkes Street has 12-foot-wide entry gates with a pedestrian gate on the north side, all made of ornamental wrought and cast iron. The main gates are supported by cast-iron piers and the pedestrian gates by stone piers. The cemetery is surrounded by a red sandstone wall approximately 4' 6" high and 24" thick (1,226 linear feet).

The cemetery was established in 1862, and laid out in four burial sections with numerous handsome trees and shrubs. There are 4,066 graves, all marked with small white marble stone markers, rectangular in shape but with rounded, or arched, tops. The graves were originally marked by headboards, painted and lettered, many of which were strapped with hoop-iron near the top. In August 1876, the boards were replaced with the upright marble markers. Four Quartermaster Corps employees (Peter Carroll, Samuel N. Gosnell, George W. Huntington, and Christopher Farley), who drowned in the Rappahannock River on April 24, 1865, while in pursuit of Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, are buried in Section A, Graves 3174-3177. On July 7, 1922, a special monument was erected by the United States in memory of these men. The monument is a bronze tablet on a granite boulder base, about 3' x 3' and 3' high, and located in the center of the cemetery on a terraced wall.

On May 10, 1967, former Army Sergeant Saul O. Lewis, a veteran of the Korean War, was buried in the cemetery's last uncommitted gravesite. The cemetery was officially closed on May 15, 1967. A small amount of interments still occur yearly, which include second interments in occupied graves, interments in reserved gravesites, or interments of cremated remains. As of December 1993, there were 22 reserved gravesites available, as well as 70 sites available for the interment of cremated remains.

The original superintendent's lodge was constructed in 1862 and was the prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. This structure was destroyed by fire in 1878. In 1887, the present lodge was built over the old walls using the original design and foundation. The L-shaped lodge is of the Second Empire style. The main portion is 1 1/2 stories high with a mansard roof with dormer windows enclosing the upper story. The exterior walls are 24-inch-thick random red sandstone. The roof was originally made of tin with the mansard sheathed in Virginia slate. The slate has since been replaced with asbestos shingles and in 1992 with fiber reinforced cement shingles. The floor to ceiling height on the first floor is approximately 10 feet. The second floor has three bedrooms, one of which has a corner partitioned off for a bathroom. All original windows and door moldings are in place; however, floors were replaced and fireplaces removed in 1952.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery  
City of Alexandria, VirginiaSection number 7 & 8 Page 2

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

In 1887, a brick Italianate building (utility building) was constructed containing a kitchen, storeroom, tool room, and toilet. The 522-square-foot building has a brick foundation with molded brick water table, brick walls, tin roof, and cement floors. In 1927, this building was connected to the lodge by constructing a wing for the dining room. The wing is one story high with 8-inch brick walls and metal roof. In 1952, the original kitchen was converted to storage space, a new 12' x 16' garage addition was constructed, and a new 10' x 60' driveway to the garage was added. The dining room was renovated into the kitchen. The main architectural features of the utility building are two arched brick bays each containing a more narrow arch with openings for a window and a door. The original stone steps remain, but the original door and window openings have been replaced with new door openings. These new openings are not compatible with the original architecture.

The original 16'-wide octagonal rostrum, brick foundation, tin roof, concrete floors, with iron columns supporting the roof, was completed on March 28, 1890. The rostrum was demolished in 1945 and replaced in 1946 with a fieldstone and slate assembly area and flagpole. The assembly area has a slate pavement enclosed by low fieldstone walls with stone steps leading down from the flag to the plaza. A white marble rostrum is at the southern end.

In 1980, the City of Alexandria designated a tree estimated to be 200 years old, as an Alexandria Bicentennial Tree. It is a *Liquidambar styraciflua* species and is centrally located in the cemetery.

## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexandria National Cemetery is significant under Criteria A and C, and is an important component of the multiple property submission of Civil War Era National Cemeteries. It is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the Civil War and under Criterion C, because the lodge represents a distinctive prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, who was acclaimed as a master architect of civil works projects for the Quartermaster Corps.

The City of Alexandria, Virginia, was the site of one of the principal camps for northern Virginia troops sent to defend Washington at the outbreak of hostilities between the North and the South. Here, in response to the popular slogan "On to Richmond," the Union Army of the Potomac was assembled from a miscellaneous collection of militia regiments.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery  
City of Alexandria, VirginiaSection number 8 Page 3**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)**

By May 1861, a sizable Virginia force had formed in Alexandria. Six infantry companies and an artillery battery were homegrown and they had been joined at various times by the Warrenton Rifles, the Prince William Rifles, the Warren Rifles from Front Royal, the Fairfax Rifles, the Loudoun Guards, Ball's Cavalry, the Fairfax Cavalry, a three-company battalion from the District of Columbia known as the Washington Volunteers, and the Beauregard and the National Rifles also from Washington. Thus, Alexandria, on the eve of the war, had 20 company-size units. The force was approximately 2,000 strong and 722 of these men, six percent of the total population, both black and white of the city, were native Alexandrians in Alexandria units.

Following the first encounter at Bull Run on July 21, 1861, Washington was surrounded by a cordon of field works that included Alexandria. This fortress area became a center of military operations in the eastern theater of hostilities throughout the long conflict. Alexandria served as a hospital and convalescent center for Federal troops wounded in the field.

The Soldiers' Cemetery (later named Alexandria National Cemetery) was established in the latter half of 1862, pursuant to legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln on July 17, 1862. This legislation authorized the President to purchase cemetery grounds to be used as national cemeteries for soldiers who died in the service of their country. The cemetery is located on land originally known as Spring Garden Farm and consists of 5.5 acres, and is the final resting place of men who fell in battle at Manassas, Thoroughfare Gap, and the forts that protected Washington. Despite the fact that the cemetery was used for approximately three years during the Civil War, formal acquisition or title by the United States Government did not occur until 1865. The original land acquisition consisted of 88,164 square feet of ground (slightly over 2 acres) conveyed to the United States by deed dated November 8, 1865, from John H. Baggett and wife. Acquisition of other adjoining land was executed by two additional deeds from John H. Baggett and wife (approximately 1.5 acres), and quitclaim deed from the City of Alexandria dated May 6, 1875 (2 acres).

The national cemetery was established as a burial ground for Union soldiers who had died in battle and at numerous hospitals in the area. The first burials in the cemetery were soldiers who died incident to training or from sickness or disease in the many hospitals around Alexandria. The first soldier buried in the national cemetery was Corporal Allen Greely, 10th Vermont Infantry. Many of the dead were reinterred from burial grounds in the surrounding area. After the ferocious Seven Days Campaign in 1862 and General Ulysses Grant's assault against Richmond in 1864, thousands of wounded Northern troops were transported via railroad from the front to Alexandria. Many died in town and frequently the bodies of officers would be embalmed and sent to grieving relatives. Others, the majority of whom were enlisted men, were interred in the national cemetery. The small cemetery was nearly filled to capacity by 1864.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery  
City of Alexandria, VirginiaSection number 8,9,10 Page 4**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)**

No Confederate soldiers rest in the cemetery, although at one time there were 39. These "rebels," as they were officially described in an old ledger, were prisoners of the Union troops and had died in Alexandria hospitals. When they died, they were buried alongside the men they had fought. In 1879, the Daughters of the Confederacy had the remains of 34 Confederate soldiers moved to Christ Church Cemetery in Alexandria. It is said that the Daughters of the Confederacy would not have any of "their soldiers buried with Yankees."

The Soldiers' Cemetery remained officially unnamed for 74 years. In 1936, General Order No. 7 was published by the War Department, officially designating this site the Alexandria National Cemetery.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Newspaper Articles - Library of Virginia History and Genealogy, 200 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia (Lloyd House) 1987-1988

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The 5.5 acres which comprise the Alexandria National Cemetery were acquired in four separate transactions. The boundaries of each parcel are as follows:

**PARCEL 1 - 2 ACRES**

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the center line of Wilkes Lane, extended with the Western boundary line of the Methodist Episcopal Burial Ground and running thence North, Eleven degrees and thirty minutes (11 30') East Three hundred and seventy-two and eighty seven one hundredths of a foot (372 87/100 ft) to the Southerly line of the land of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company thence north, eighty two degrees and twenty minutes (82 20') West, and along the last mentioned line, Two hundred and thirty seven feet and sixty two one hundredths of a foot (237, 62/100 ft): thence South eleven degrees and thirty minutes (11 30') West, Three hundred and sixty feet and forty-one hundredths of a foot (360, 41/100 ft): thence South eighty seven degrees and thirty minutes (87 30') East Two hundred and thirty seven feet and sixty-two one hundredths of a foot, to the point or place of beginning.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery  
City of Alexandria, VirginiaSection number 10 Page 5**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (Continued)****PARCEL 2 - 2.02 ACRES**

Beginning at the South Easterly corner of the land leased by the City Council of Alexandria to the said United States of America (Parcel 1) and used as a military cemetery thence running westerly along said Cemetery two hundred and thirty seven feet to the West boundary thereof thence Southwardly parallel with the Western Boundary of the Methodist Protestant Burial Ground two hundred and thirty seven feet thence Northwardly along the line of the said Burial Ground three hundred and seventy two feet to the place of beginning.

**PARCEL 3 - 8 1/8 SQUARE PERCHES**

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Lot heretofore conveyed by said Baggett to the United States and in Western line of the Methodist Episcopal Burial Ground, extending thence with said lot N. 78 7' W, 237 feet to the South West corner of said lot, thence S.12 4" W.5 1/4 feet to the Southwest corner of said cemetery, thence with the Southern line thereof S.78 24' E.237 feet to the South East corner of the same in the said line of the said burial ground, thence with said line N/12 50' E.4 feet 1 inch, to the beginning containing 8 1/8 square perches.

**PARCEL 4 - 1.61 ACRES**

Beginning at a point at the South West corner of the Cemetery wall, running thence with the said wall N 12 04' E, seven hundred and thirty-two and one third (7 32 1/3) feet to a point marked "B" on the plat, the intersection of the said wall with the dividing line between the Orange and Alexandria Railroad (now the Virginia Midland Railway) and the United States Cemetery, thence with the said dividing line extended N 80 313 West, Ten (10' 0") feet; to a point on the East Bank of Hooff's Run, thence Southward along the East bank of Hooff's Run following the meanders of the same to a point on the East bank where it intersects the South line of said Cemetery, thence along said South line extended S.78 24' E one hundred and seventy seven feet (177) feet to the beginning containing 1.61 acres; being part of a larger lot of ground which William B. Richards and Priscilla his wife by deed dated the 6th of January 1855 and recorded amongst the land records of Fairfax County, State of Virginia, in Liber W. No. 3, Page 40 et seq. granted and conveyed to the said John Baggett in fee.

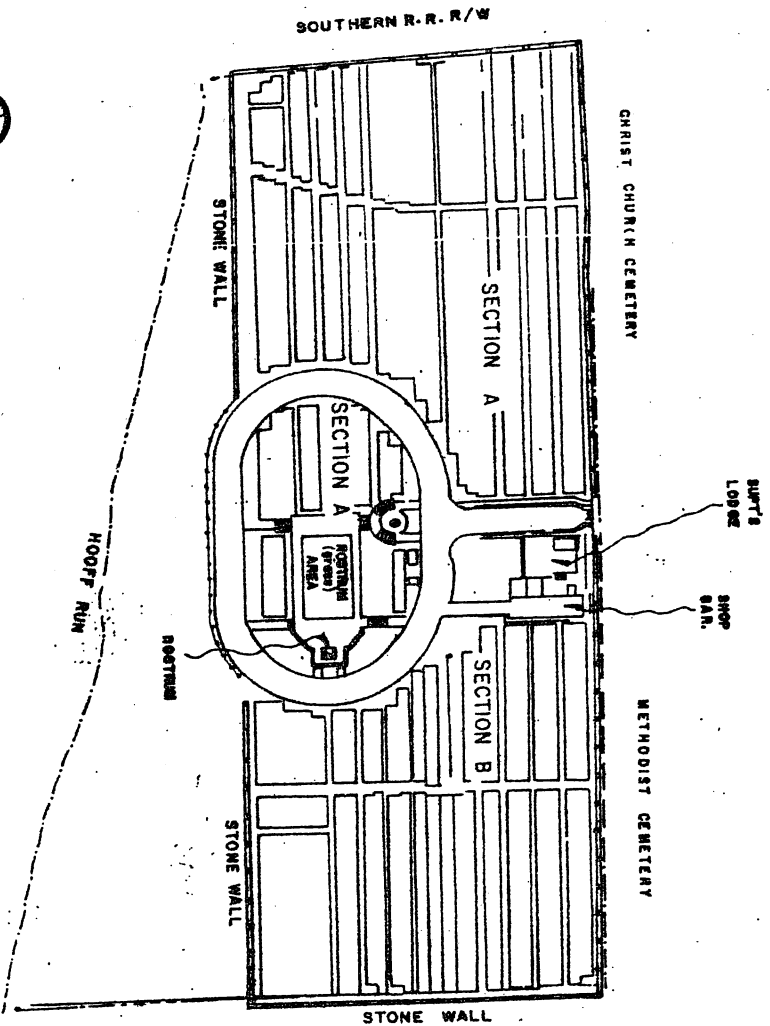
A map (Attachment 1) indicates boundary containing the four parcels; bearing and distance as noted.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The National Cemetery System has used the existing boundaries of the cemetery.



MAP OF THE  
ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA  
DEC. 1968



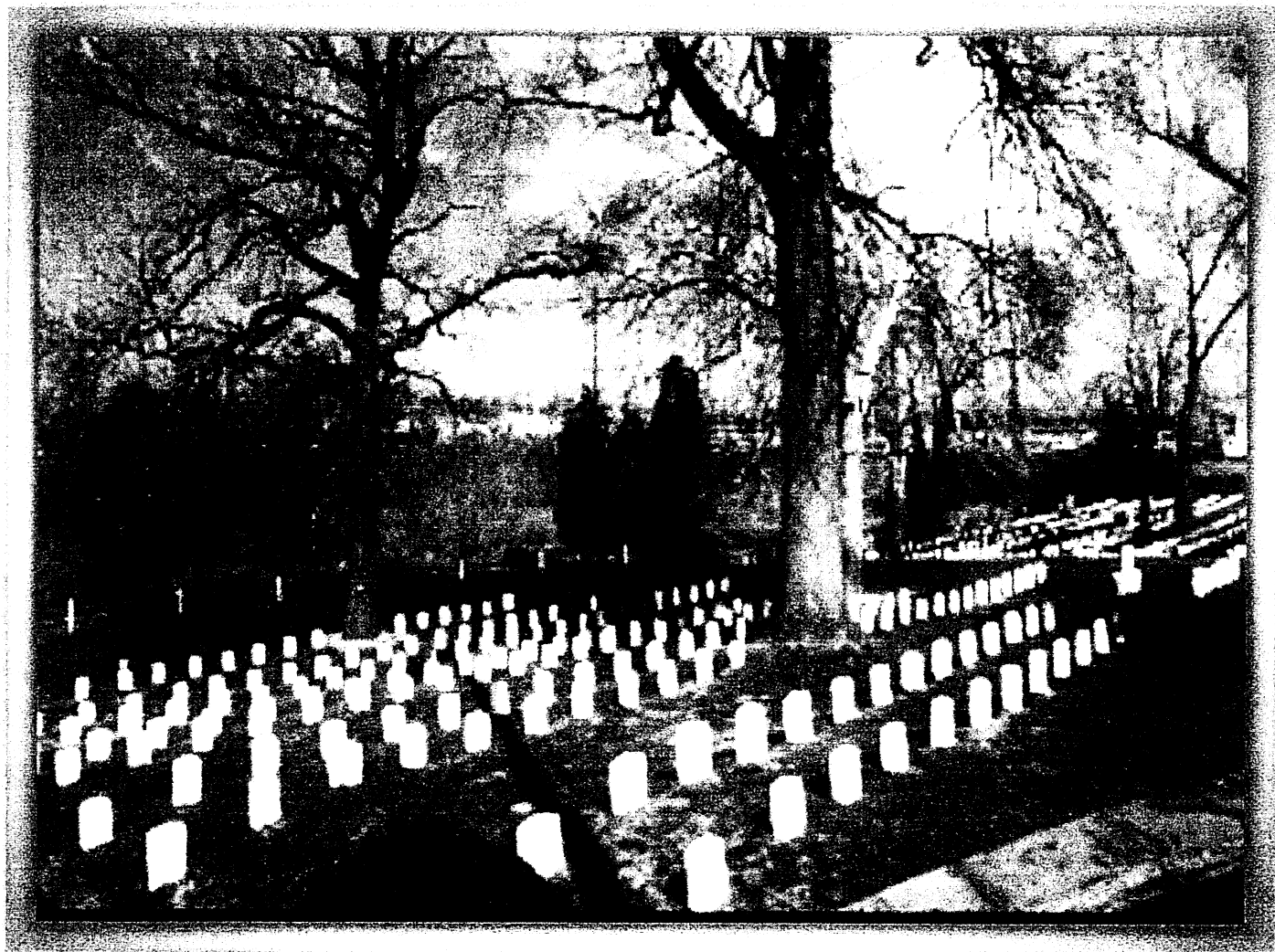
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ENTRANCE GATES WILL BE OPEN AND VISITORS PERMITTED IN THE CEMETERY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS:  
8:00AM TO 5:00PM EVERYDAY  
8:00AM TO 7:00PM MEMORIAL DAY
2. CEMETERY WILL NOT BE USED AS PICNIC GROUNDS.
3. VISITORS WILL NOT LITTER THE GROUNDS, CUT, BREAK OR INJURE TREES, SHRUBS OR PLANTS OR OTHERWISE CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A MANNER NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE DIGNITY AND THE SACREDNESS OF THE CEMETERY.
4. ALL GRAVES WILL BE DECORATED ON THE WORK DAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING MEMORIAL DAY, WITH SMALL UNITED STATES FLAGS, WHICH WILL BE REMOVED ON THE FIRST WORK DAY AFTER MEMORIAL DAY. FLAGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON GRAVES AT ANY OTHER TIME.
5. CUT FLOWERS, WREATHS OR FLORAL EMBLEMS EITHER LIVE OR ARTIFICIAL, WITH OR WITHOUT WIRE STAND, MAY BE PLACED ON GRAVES AT ANY TIME, PROVIDED THAT THE WIRE STAND IS MORE THAN TWO FEET FROM THE HEADSTONE AND THAT CUT FLOWERS, WREATHS OR FLORAL EMBLEMS DO NOT TOUCH HEADSTONE.
6. INFORMATION REGARDING REMOVAL OF FLORAL ITEMS WILL BE FURNISHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT.
7. APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF GRAVE IS INDICATED IN RED PENCIL.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRAVE \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_



**ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY PRESENTATION**

Good Morning, Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, and members of City Council.

My name is Michael Reddan and I am the Executive Director of the

ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.

I come before you today to speak on behalf of the ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY in an effort to re-integrate this historic place, and national treasure, into the urban fabric of Alexandria's rich history.

The building and grounds have been placed on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery at 1450 Wilkes Street in Alexandria is known among veterans and civil war historians as the "crown jewel" of the National Cemetery system. Dedicated by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, the Alexandria Cemetery became the FIRST NATIONAL CEMETERY established by Congress and the oldest in the National Cemetery Administration. This Cemetery is the "FIRST IN THE NATION" to provide the following services:

- Bury the first casualty from the Civil War in a National Cemetery.
- The first integrated cemetery in the United States with as many as 250 African-American soldiers interred here.
- Interment of 120 Civil War unknown soldiers from both sides of the conflict.
- The only Federal Cemetery, by Presidential Proclamation and War Department regulations, made a one-time exception to the rules for burial to allow the funerals of four civilians who perished in the Rappahannock

River during the pursuit of John Wilkes Boothe following the assassination of President Lincoln.

I am here today to formally request the **City of Alexandria** to place this cultural resource and historical asset on its:

- Map of historic places and the City's historical boundaries.
- Insert this 1862 event in the City's "1800-1899 – A Timeline of Alexandria History". There are no conflicts for inclusion since this year contains no entries.
- Include printed materials about this hallowed place among the other documents provided by the Visitors Center to visitors and, finally, other key distribution locations as deemed appropriate by the City.

Congressman Jim Moran has secured two matching funds grants under the **"SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES"** program. The Lloyd House in Alexandria has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$100,000.00. The other building is the superintendent's residence located inside the Cemetery's sandstone walls and known as the "Meigs Lodge" has been selected to receive an equal amount of funding for its historic restoration.

The goal of the **ANCP FOUNDATION** is to:

1. Raise the matching grant money and build upon the modest goals of the seed money to reverse the current state physical decay.
  2. Alter public perception and raise it's awareness surrounding this piece of history at the top of Wilkes Street.
  3. Re-open this cemetery to serve the needs of current and future veterans.
-



27  
11-15-03 002



November 6, 2003

Alexandria City Council  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**RE: Letter of Support for Old Town Mobil Service Station**

Dear Members of the Council,

It has recently come to my attention that the city is considering locating a park on the current lot of Old Town Mobil Service Station at 1001 South Washington Street.

As a long time Alexandria resident, I certainly understand the scarcity of space in the city and appreciate the difficulty in finding acceptable space for such a park. However, forcing the closure of Old Town Mobil is not a wise decision in my opinion.

I have been a faithful customer of Old Town Mobil for over 5 years. It is one of the few local businesses that provide good, honest customer service. It is a rarity to find other similar reliable businesses in this vicinity. I have valued their work so much that I continue to drive well out of my way to have both my car and my wife's car serviced at this particular station.

Be it a weekday or on any given weekend there is typically a line of cars awaiting inspection or other service—a clear indicator of a sound business that is contributing well to the local economy. I would also point out that the convenient location of Old Town Mobil off of I-495 is a true convenience to customers and lost motorists.

I would strongly recommend reconsideration of locating a park on the lot of Old Town Mobil. Doing so would be a great disappointment to many customers and would be a loss to a thriving local business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Burita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Burita" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Burita  
5985 Terrapin Place #302  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
(703) 822-0156

27  
11-15-03

920 South Saint Asaph Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
11 November 2003

The Honorable Bill Euille  
Mayor of Alexandria  
City Hall  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Euille:

Please encourage the proponents of the slave cemetery to work with the Mobil representatives so that both the memorial and the station can exist.

The mechanical work and true service station are superior. Oscar (Afghar Butt) has operated the Mobil station for more than twelve years, kept its appearance and repairs excellent, not found in other places.

Sincerely yours,

*Martha Redding Mendenhall*

Martha Redding Mendenhall